

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 121604Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7700

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION UN

USMISSION EC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UNGA, KS, KN, BE

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VISIT TO BELGIUM

REF: BRUSSELS 6085

1. SOUTH KOREAN DCM (PARK) INFORMED US AUG. 11 OF PLANNED VISIT TO BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG OF NORTH KOREAN JOURNALISTS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT VISIT WOULD OCCASION ANOTHER MEETING OF "BELGIAN-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY" (REF-TEL) AND RESULT IN BARRAGE OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA. PARK SAID GROUP WOULD BE LED BY A MR. LEE, CHIEF EDITOR OF NORTH KOREAN

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION "KOREA TODAY", AND PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO THE

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NETHERLANDS AUGUST 28, LUXEMBOURG SEPTEMBER 7, AND BELGIUM

SEPTEMBER 17-27. HE SAID THAT BELGIAN VISAS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO GROUP BY BELGIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

2. WE SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS (STEYAERT) WHO CONFIRMED NORTH KOREAN VISA APPLICATION BUT SAID THAT VISAS HAD NOT YET BEEN ISSUED AND DECISION WHETHER TO ISSUE THEM WAS UP IN THE AIR. HE CHARACTERIZED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS "NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT VISIT. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE MEETING OF "BELGIAN-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY" DURING VISIT, HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF PROPOSED MEETING AND HAD THOUGHT SOCIETY'S SOCIALIST PARTY SPONSORS WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA SHOW ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST SOCIETY MEETING IN JUNE. HE PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: WE ALLUDED TO SOUTH KOREA CONCERN ABOUT A PRE-UNGA PROPAGANDA PLOY AND COMMENTED THAT CONCERN APPEARED TO BE WELL-FOUNDED. WE KNOW SENIOR LEVELS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE PUSHY NORTH KOREANS BUT WE DOUBT THEY WILL DECIDE TO REJECT VISA APPLICATIONS. RENNER

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